

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0014], [0015] and [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Fig. 2 is a side view of a particular embodiment of rear derailleur 11. Rear derailleur 11 comprises a base member 26, a four-point link mechanism 27 disposed on base member 26, and a chain guide 28 disposed on four-point link mechanism 27. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, base member 26 and hub axle 40 are affixed to the back end of frame body 2. More specifically, the back end of frame body 2 has a recessed slit 51, and base member 26 has an axle opening 41 and a convex projection 50. Convex projection 50 is pushed upwardly into recessed slit ~~50~~ 51, and hub axle 40 is passed through axle opening 41 and secured to nonrotatably interlock base member 26, and hence rear derailleur 11, to frame body 2.

[0015] The four-point link mechanism 27 comprises a first link member 30 and second link member 31 rotatably mounted through pivot shafts 33 to a link base 29 disposed at the bottom end of base member ~~30~~ 26, and a linking member 39. Linking member 39 is rotatably mounted to upwardly extending distal ends of the first and second link members 30 and 31 through pivot shafts 33, and a chain guide 28 is rotatably mounted to linking member 39. A first biasing member 32 is connected to diagonally opposite pivot shafts 33 so that chain guide 28 is biased laterally outwardly, and cable retaining unit 34 is disposed on a side face of second link member 31 for retaining an inner cable 36 of a control cable assembly 35. Chain guide 28 comprises a pair of guide sprockets 37 (only ~~one~~ the lower guide sprocket 37 is shown in the drawing) and a guide frame 38 for ~~rotatably supporting each~~ rotatably supporting sprocket 37 for rotation around a rotational axis R. Guide frame 38 is mounted on linking member 39 for rotation in a plane perpendicular to the linking member 39 axis, and it is rotationally biased by a second biasing member ~~41~~ 42 to impart tension to chain 10 (i.e., in a clockwise direction in Fig. 2).

[0018] In order for the complex functions of rear derailleur 11 to be advantageously realized in a small-wheeled bicycle, it is necessary to avoid contact between derailleur 11 and the road surface while maintaining a highly rigid linkage between the rear derailleur 11 and frame body 2, not only when the bicycle is stopped, but also when the bicycle body is inclined during riding. In the rear

derailleur 11 of the present embodiment, the convex projection 50 formed on the upper portion of the base member 26 and the ~~convex~~ concave slit 51 formed on the back end of the frame 2 provides a highly rigid nonrotatable linkage between the rear derailleur 11 and the frame body 2.

Additionally, since the portion of the four-point link mechanism 27 to which the chain guide 28 and the linking member 39 are mounted is positioned above the portion of the four-point link mechanism 27 mounted to the base member 26, the chain guide 28 is disposed forward and upwardly of the base member. Thus, the rear derailleur 11 is located further above the road surface than conventional derailleurs, so there is sufficient distance to avoid contact between the rear derailleur 11 and the road surface even if the bicycle body inclines.